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Coleoptera (Cerambycidae, Cleridae, Languriidae) Overwintering in Stems of Wisconsin Prairie Plants

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COLEOPTERA (CERAMBYCIDAE, CLERIDAE, LANGURIIDAE) OVERWINTERING IN STEMS OF WISCONSIN PRAIRIE PLANTS

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ABSTRACT

Stem samples of 20 native species of prairie plants were collected in late September, caged separately and kept outdoors over the Wisconsin winter. The samples were then brought into the lab and animals produced from each plant species were inventoried. Certain of the Coleoptera so produced (*Acropteroxys gracilis, Dectes sayi*, *Enoclerus rosmarus*) are reported here.

In an effort to understand the level of risk of harm to native biodiversity inherent in various prairie management techniques, especially the use of fire outside the growing season, an inventory of the animals overwintering in the standing dead stems of prairie plants was conducted. The materials and methods of inquiry, the systematic and ecological diversity of the animals produced, the diversity of life stages found to use these stems and important implications for prairie conservation were reported by Williams (1999). Mordellidae so produced were reported by Lisberg and Young (2003). All other adult beetles determined to species — *Acropteroxys gracilis* Newman (Languriidae), *Dectes sayi* Dillon and Dillon (Cerambycidae) and *Enoclerus rosmarus* (Say) (Cleridae) — are reported here (Table 1) with their food plant records.

Plants and beetles were determined by the author. Plant nomenclature follows Gleason and Cronquist (1991). Beetle specimens were deposited in the Insect Research Collection at the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

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Table 1. Samples of stems of 20 native prairie plants were collected in late September, caged and overwintered outdoors in Wisconsin. They later produced the following numbers of arthropod species and adults of beetles *Acropteroxys gracilis* (A), *Dectes sayi* (D) and *Enoclerus rosmarus* (E).

Plant Family and Species		Number of Arthropod Species	Beetles
Asclepiadaceae	*Asclepias incarnata*	0	—
Asteraceae	*Aster novae-angliae*	14	E
	Eupatorium maculatum	17	A, D, E
	Eupatorium perfoliatum	17	A
	Helenium autumnale	27	A, E
	Helianthus grosseserratus	9	E
	Helianthus tuberosus	12	—
	Heliopsis helianthoides	16	—
	Liatris pycnostachya	20	E
	Rudbeckia laciniata	31	E
	Silphium perfoliatum	23	E
	Solidago canadensis	20	E
	Solidago gigantea	10	—
	Vernonia fasciculata	13	E
Clusiaceae	*Hypericum pyramidatum*	10	E
Fabaceae	*Baptisia lactea*	14	E
Gentianaceae	*Gentiana andrewsii*	21	—
Scrophulariaceae	*Pedicularis lanceolata*	18	E
	Veronicastrum virginicum	18	E
Verbenaceae	*Verbena hastata*	0	—